Setting up of new industries in public sector in Assam

536. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up new industries in public sector in Assam in Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether all the formalities for establishing Gas Cracker Unit in Assam by RAPL have been completed; and

(e) if so, by when it would begin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Tenth Five Year Plan has yet to be approved by National Development Council (NDC). However following the liberalization of the non-strategic sector the initiative for location of industries rests with the promoters. Government's effort would be restricted only to strategic sectors.

(d) and (e) Gas Cracker Unit in Assam is to be setup by Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Limited (RAPL), a joint venture of Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL). Site at Lapekata has been earmarked for the project. As regards feedstock, two separate agreements each between RAPL & Oil India and RAPL & ONGC have already been signed. A third agreement for supply of LPG is yet to be finalized between IOC & RAPL. The Project Authorities has indicated that the project can be commissioned within 44 months of the finalization of the Gas Supply Agreement and acquisition of the land.

Revival of Praga Tools Ltd.

537. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to revive the Praga Tools Ltd., a PSU located at Secunderabad in Andhra Pradesh within a time frame;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the PSU before the BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Praga Tools Ltd. (PTL) was referred to BIFR in 1998. In accordance with the direction of BIFR, a consultant was appointed to study the viability of the company. The consultant in their report have considered various options regarding the future of PTL, including revival. BIFR has yet to take a final decision in regard to the future of PTL.

Revival package for NIL

538. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet had approved on 18th June, 2002 a revival package for National Instruments Limited (NIL) involving conversion of Rs. 60 crore loan into equity and writing off of outstanding interest of Rs. 138 crore;

(b) if so, the details of the same and its status of implementation including joint venture formation;

(c) whether BIFR has issued a show-cause notice in spite of the above Cabinet decision; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to revive the unit as per Cabinet decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The Government decided on 18.06.2002 regarding financial restructuring of National Instruments Limited (NIL) and for extension of budgetary support to it, the details of which are as under:

(i) Financial restructuring of NIL incumbent on Joint Venture (JV) formation, *viz.* Conversion of plan/non-plan loan of Rs. 60.34 crore into equity and write off the outstanding interest/penal interest of Rs. 138.08 crores etc. as on 31.3.2002.